

**KEEPER OF KAPUAS RIVER**  
*Penunggu Sungai Kapuas*

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**Language Development and Cultivation Agency  
Ministry of Education and Culture  
Republic of Indonesia  
2018**

## **KEEPER OF KAPUAS RIVER**

Translated from  
*Penunggu Sungai Kapuas*  
adapted by Erlis Nur Mujiningsih  
published by  
Language Development and Cultivation Agency  
Ministry of Education and Culture  
in 2016

This translation has been published as the result of the translation program organized  
by The Center for Language Strategy and Diplomacy Development,  
Language Development and Cultivation Agency, Ministry of Education and Culture  
in 2018

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# Penunggu Sungai Kapuas



Cerita Rakyat dari Kalimantan Tengah

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## Penunggu Sungai Kapuas

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Diterbitkan ulang pada tahun 2016 oleh:  
**Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa**  
**Jalan Daksinapati Barat IV**  
**Rawamangun**  
**Jakarta Timur**

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	<b>Katalog Dalam Terbitan (KDT)</b>
PB	Hardaniwati, Menuk
398.209 598 4	Penunggu Sungai Kapuas/Menuk Hardaniwati; Rini Adiati Ekoputranti (Penyunting); Erlis Nur Mujiningsih (Penyadur). Jakarta: Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa, 2016
HAR	
P	lii 50 hlm; 28 cm
	ISBN 978-979-069-290-9
	1. KESUSASTERAAAN RAKYAT - KALIMANTAN 2. CERITA RAKYAT - KALIMANTAN



## Foreword

Literature work is not only series of word but it also talks about life, both realistically and idealistically of human. If it is realistic, the literature work usually contains life experiences, good model, and wisdom which have been added various style and imagination along with it. Meanwhile, if it idealistic, the literature work contains moral lecture, good character, advices, philosophical symbols, culture and other things related to human life. The life itself is very diverse, varies, and full of various problems and conflicts faced by humans. The diversity in humans life also affects to the diversity of literature work because the contents are inseparable from civilized and dignified humans life.

The literature works that dealing with life utilizes language as medium of deliverance and imaginative art as its *cultural land*. On the basis of the language medium and imaginative art, literature is multidimensional and multi-interpretative. Using language medium, imaginative art and cultural dimension, literature deliver messages to be reviewed or analyzed from various perspectives. The outcome of that perspective depends greatly on who is reviewing and analyzing with various socio-cultural and knowledge background. There is a time when a literary reviewer reviews from the point of view of metaphor, myth, symbol, power, ideology, economy, politics, and culture can be refuted by other reviewers who see from perspective of sound, referent, or irony. Even so, Heraclitus said, "However opposite they work together and from different directions, the most beautiful harmony emerges".

There are many lessons that we can get from reading literature, one of which is reading folktales that are adapted or reprocessed into children's stories. The results of reading literature always inspire and motivate readers to be creative in

finding something new. Reading literature can trigger further imagination, open enlightenment, and add insights. For this reason, we express our gratitude for the processors for the story. We also express our appreciation and gratitude to the Head of the Coaching Center, Head of the Learning Division, and Head of the Subdivision of Modules and Teaching Materials and staffs for all the efforts and hard works carried out until the realization of this book.

Hopefully this storybook is not only useful as a reading material for students and the community to foster a culture of literacy through the National Literacy Movement program, but also useful as an enrichment of our knowledge of past life that can be utilized in addressing current and future life developments.

Jakarta, 15 March 2016

Regards,  
Prof. Dr. Dadang Sunendar, M. Hum.

## **Preface**

The book contains two stories, the first story entitled “Keeper of Kapuas River” comes from the story entitled “The Folktale from Central Kalimantan”. The book, which is a collection of the stories from various regions in Central Kalimantan, were published by the Department of Education and Cultural in 1982 in 82 pages. The story entitled "Keeper of Kapuas River" was taken from Central Kalimantan folklore. The original title of the story is "Curse of Mintin Island’s King".

The second story entitled “Intan Pusaka”, the original title of the story is "Hanaut Island and Lepeh Island". The author takes it from the same literature. Both stories are almost the same, they told about the legend in Central Kalimantan. The moral value of the story is we should not waste the trust, keep it any time.

Hopefully, the story of “Keeper of Kapuas River” and “Intan Pusaka” can enrich the treasure of Indonesian story.

Erlis Nur Mujiningsih

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## **KEEPER OF KAPUAS RIVER**

### **1. Crocodile and Dragon**

The big, tall man is no longer young. He was seventy years old. His hair was already white and his skin was already saggy. However, the rest of his good look still appears. He is a much-respected king by his people.



The king was famous as a wise and sensible king in the Kahayan Hilir Kingdom, Mintin Island. The people live in harmony and prosper because of the king's justice. The glory of the kingdom was well known to the surrounding area.

This morning, the rain wetted the Kahayan Hilir Kingdom. The sky was dark as if it were going to rain more and more. This atmosphere caused the pain of King Kahayan Hilir. His eyes pointed far away. He looked at the points of the rain. The king still cannot forget the passing of his beloved Empress. "Can I live alone without her?" That worry was weighing his mind.

The rain outside was still pouring down heavily; the roaring of the high winds was occasionally heard. He looked at the points of the rain. The tears poured down the king's cheeks. Memories with the empress cannot be forgotten. "Who am I going to discuss with about the future of this kingdom? My sons are not fully capable to continue the government in this kingdom," he told himself.

After the death of the empress, the king was in grieve. All planned activities were delayed. He was often alone and forgot all his royal duties.

The sun was still reluctant to appear until the middle of the day it was still raining down the Kingdom of Kahayan Hilir. The king still sat dreamy on the veranda. No one else dared to speak to him. Both of his sons were not so concerned with his father.



King Kahayan Hilir has twin sons, one named Dragon and the other named Crocodile. The king was always fair to the Dragon and the Crocodile. What was given to the Dragon would also be given to Crocodile. The king and the empress were very fond of their twin son. Although they were twins, they had very different characters. The dragon had a bad nature. He liked to waste money and pay less attention to the teachings given by the king. He also did not want to speak with people who are considered in lower social status than him, while Crocodile is gentle and helpful.

The king is aware of the difference in the character of his two sons. The king often advised the Dragon and Crocodile to be nice to everyone.

"Dragon and Crocodile, you two are my sons. I hope someday, you both can continue my regime in this kingdom. "It was the message that the king always conveyed to the Dragon and Crocodile.

"Well Father, Dragon will always remember your message," replied the Dragon pretending to please his father.

"Dragon, I hope you can be the protector of the people of Kahayan Hilir Kingdom. You must not forget that hatred, jealousy, and arrogance will pollute your life. I want you to be a respected leader among your people. "

Became an adult, Dragon increasingly showed worse character. Dragon often went somewhere to have fun. He did not come home for days. Dragon often played bets. In fact, Dragon also bet to get the beautiful girls. He wasted much money for his own pleasure. Dragon forgot his father's message.

The character of Dragon is very different from his twin. Crocodile grew up as a friendly and humble person. Crocodile kindness is known by the bodyguards, servants, and ladies in the Kahayan Hilir Kingdom. Crocodile also often help people in distress. He did not hesitate to help less fortunate people. He also often gave food to the hungry.

The king knew what the Crocodile was doing. The king was glad to hear the guards' story about the kindness of Crocodile to the people of the Kingdom of Kahayan Hilir. Instead, the king doubted the personality of the Dragon.

## 2. King's Exile

Day after day, month after month, the health and spirit of King Kahayan Hilir decreased further. The king no longer ran his government well. He continued to grieve, forgot to eat and just sat daydreaming.

That morning, the sun shone brightly, the birds chirped joyfully as if they were greeting the sunrise.

The atmosphere of the palace this morning was somewhat different from the previous days. The king was fully dressed and sat on the throne. Her face looked cheerful than the days before. Soon the king sat down and called the guard.

"Guard, come here."

"Yes, Your Highness. Is there anything you want to say to us? "

"I want you to call my two sons."

"Yes, Your Highness, we will call your two sons."

"My sons, this morning I want to make a request to both of you."

"Father, please say it," answered the Dragon.

"Lately I no longer think of the Kingdom of Kahayan Hilir. I cannot move on from your mother's passing. "

"It's true Father, then what do we need to do for you?" Asked Crocodile.

"I decided to leave the palace and retire to a place far from everything. I want to calm down so I can forget my sorrow. In the meantime, I will hand over the royal leadership to the two of you."

"You mean you will not lead this kingdom anymore?" Asked Dragon.

"It's true my son, I want both you to continue this government. My messages, don't fight for it, but please help each other in leading this kingdom. This kingdom requires wise and fair leaders to keep their prosperity and peace. "

"Father, do not have to worry about it, we both will carry out father's mandate in leading the Kingdom of Kahayan Hilir," said Crocodile.

"It's true Father, what Crocodile says. We will continue the leadership of Father by helping each other. "Dragon added. The king breathed a sigh of relief when he heard his two sons were willing to continue his leadership.

The sun has not yet shine, the rooster crow is still not heard. Rush hour was starting to show up this morning. The guards had prepared everything the king would bring into exile.



The two sons of the king followed drive the king to the river bank. No one knows where the king would go, except some of the guards who had been chosen by the king to escort him during the isolation.

Cuddled alternately by his sons. The king cannot deceive himself, he shed tears. Then he said, "My sons, I will go to a distant place, remember my message. Do not waste the trust that I have given to you. I love you both very much. I want you to bring the people to live in harmony and prosperity. "



Day after day began to live without the presence of the king. Crocodile intended to quickly divide the royal tasks with the Dragon. One day he talked about it with Dragon.

"Dragon, we should start dividing the tasks of continuing our father's leadership," said Crocodile beginning the conversation with the Dragon.

"What do you mean Crocodile. I think I am the one who has the right to lead this kingdom. I do not need to divide the tasks to you," replied Dragon curtly.

"Do you not remember that we were given the tasks by our father to run the kingdom together?" Said Crocodile.

"Well I will follow your will, but if you wronged the message that our father ordered us. You will face me," Crocodile threatened.

Dragon was becoming more and more cruel to his kingdom and people. He did not only act authoritative but also often act cruelly to the people of the Kingdom of Kahayan Hilir. His habit to have fun and gamble made people restless. No one dared to deny the wishes of the Dragon. People were always afraid to see the behavior of the Dragon.

### 3. Keeper of the Kapuas River

Dragon's cruelty is known by Crocodile. Crocodile often sees the suffering of the people because of the cruelty has done by Dragon. The life of the people of the Kingdom of Kahayan Hilir was not getting better, but worse. Day by day, month after month the royal treasure was decreased. Poverty was everywhere. That's when Crocodile thought. "I cannot stay silent. I must immediately stop the Dragon's cruelty because he has broken his promise. "

"Dragon, I see you've broken the promise you made. You are no longer running our father's order. On the contrary, you make the people more miserable. "

"I am the king. So I am the ruler of this kingdom. You cannot interfere in this royal business, "answered the Dragon calmly.

"Alright, now you are my enemy. I will defend the people against your cruelty."

The battle between the two sons of the Kahayan Hilir Kingdom was inevitable. The dragon with its strength brought to the battlefield to face Crocodile stronghold.

That afternoon, the air of Kahayan Hilir Kingdom was hot. The sun shined right on the earth. Both sides had started to arrive with complete weaponry. Crocodile with his dashing led the stronghold against the attack of Dragon stronghold.

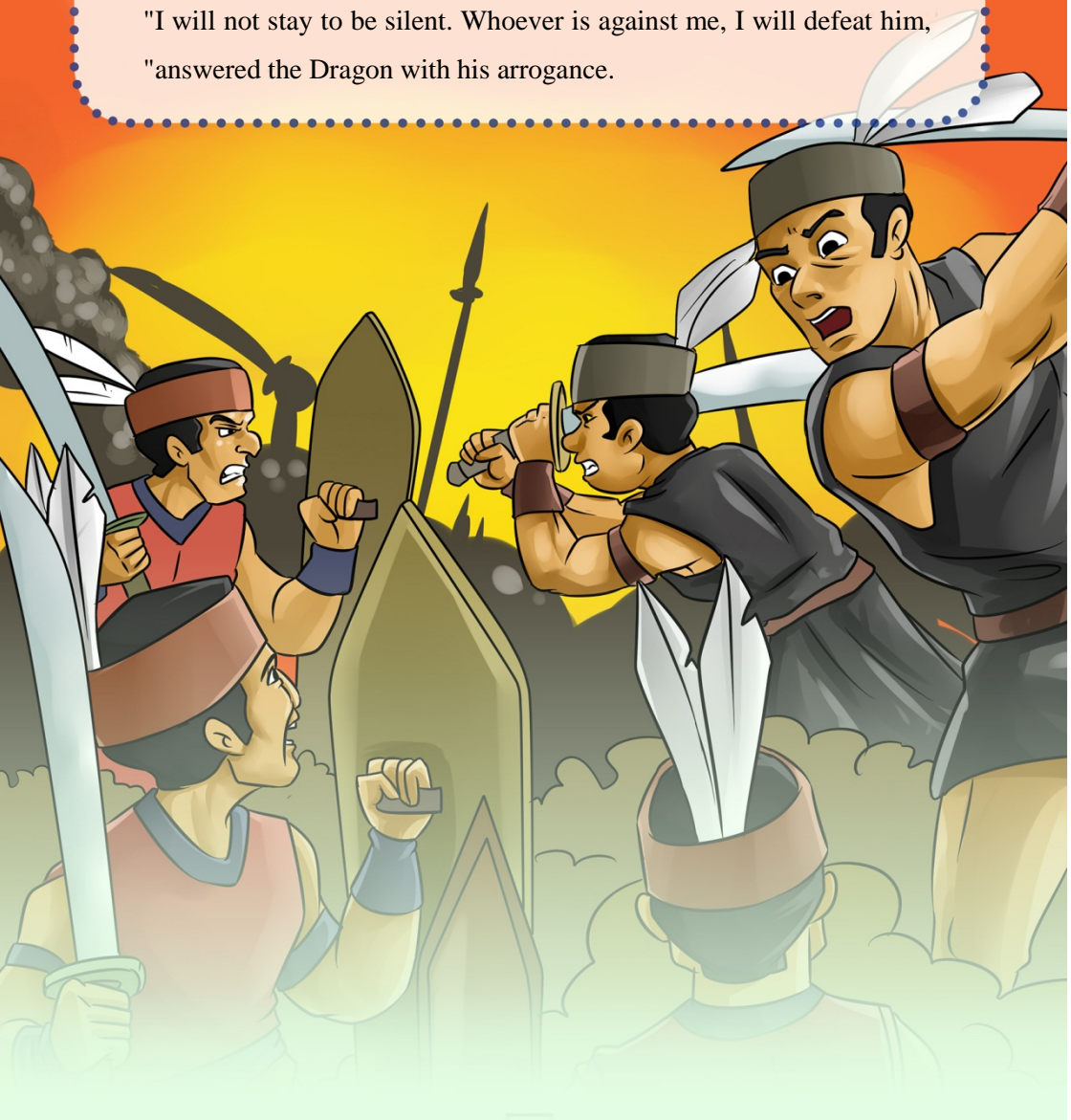
There was a drum of war beginning to be beaten, a sign of combat immediately began. Crocodile advanced into the middle of the battle arena followed by his bodyguards as well as the Dragon. The sound of swords and bayonets collide.

"War .... war."

The voice was repeated and followed by victim after victim fell on both sides of the stronghold. The battle stopped because Crocodile and Dragon realized both lost bodyguards. Both sides resigned for a while and the war was not continued.

"I will leave this battlefield. However, that does not mean I lost. I do not want my bodyguard to die in vain," said Crocodile.

"I will not stay to be silent. Whoever is against me, I will defeat him," answered the Dragon with his arrogance.



In the hermitage, the heart of King Kahayan Hilir became restless. He could not sleep. "What exactly is going on with my two sons? Why does my heart suddenly become uneasy?" That question suddenly appeared in the king's heart. The king then meditated. He wanted to see the state of the Kahayan Hilir Kingdom from his spiritual realm. The king took a calm sitting position and with his supernatural powers, the king could see that there was a danger in the Kahayan Hilir Kingdom.

The King did not want to see his two sons fighting. "I had to go back to the Kahayan Hilir Kingdom. I do not want any of my sons hurt. I have to reconcile them. What exactly are they arguing about," he told himself. Then, with his supernatural powers in a short time, the King can go back to the Kahayan Hilir Kingdom. He found the Dragon in the royal palace. The king asked what exactly had happened so there was a war between the two brothers.

"Dragon, what exactly has happened so you and Crocodile are at odds with each other," the King began his conversation.

"I have done father's mandate, but Crocodile always defends the people. He considers what I did wrong," told Dragon.

"I do not want to be one-sided. I also have to hear why Crocodile defends the people."

"Please, Father asks Crocodile," answered the dragon.

"Then, guards! Call Crocodile here!" said the King.

"Crocodile, what exactly has happened in this Kahayan Hilir Kingdom, tell me, I want to hear it."

"Father, I've made a deal with the dragon. However, it turns out the Dragon denies the deal. The people become fierce and poor because of his cruelty. "

Unfinished Crocodile told all the shortcomings of his brother (Dragon), Dragon was angry. He came closely Crocodile. He wanted to vent his anger to Crocodile.

"Stop this," cried the king.

"You're really embarrassing. I have taught you to live in mutual respect and help others, but all of that failed. You have broken my message and have not performed the mandate I have given to you. I do not want people to live miserably. "

"Dragon and Crocodile, you have wasted the trust I have given to you. For that, my punishment you'll receive. Dragon, you will be a real dragon and live in the water. Crocodile you will be a true crocodile and live also in the water. However, because your mistakes are not so heavy, your punishment is lighter. You settle in this area, to guard the island of Mitin. I give your responsibility to stem the entry of salt water to this area.





In the meantime, you Dragon, get out of this place. I give you responsibility to guard along the Kapuas River to avoid overgrown fungus and stay there. "

King was willing to sacrifice for the people of Kahayan Hilir Kingdom. The curse was already spoken by a powerful king.

At that moment there was a loud thunder. It was raining heavily. The Kahayan Hilir Kingdom became dark because it was covered by dark clouds. The sound of thunder seemed to support the King's curse. In the midst of the heavy rain suddenly the two sons of the king turned into a real dragon and Crocodile. Both animals passed before the king, Crocodile walked to the water and live on the island of Mitin, while the Dragon ran like a dragon-like serpent to the Kapuas River.

It is said that there is a trace of a dragon that until now is believed by the public in Anjir Kalampan as a trace of a dragon serpent that goes to the Kapuas River.



## **Heirloom Diamond**

### **1. A Secret**

King Lumuh Peang was famous for his justice and wisdom in leading the kingdom. The people lived in harmony and peace under the rule of King Lumuh Peang. The people did not feel lacking and they never disagreed.

King Lumuh Peang had two children. The eldest child was a beautiful princess named Lumuh Lenggana. The second child was a handsome and well-built son named Lumuh Sumpit. King

Lumuh never felt troubled by the state of his people, as well as by the mischief of his son and daughter.

Not as usual this morning the king seemed to be overwhelmed with distress. What exactly makes it so? His bodyguards and servants did not appear anywhere near him. Apparently King Lumuh Peang was thinking of his son and daughter. "When should I convey this secret to my children? Are they ready to accept this responsibility? "The question always made him nervous.

That morning the taste could not be dammed anymore so the king delivered to his son and daughter. "My very beloved children, there is something I need to tell you.

I thought this was the best time. "

"Say it Dad, we're ready to listen."

"Okay, I want to tell you something you've been keeping secret with."

King Lumuh Peang just started to tell the secret of the kingdom, suddenly the room where they talked radiated a bright light. The light was unknown where it came from

"Dad, what light is this?" Asked Princess Lumuh Lenggana haltingly.

"This is what I'm going to tell you both."

The king went on, "My children, these are all you need to know. Your ancestors a king who is highly obeyed and respected by the whole region, even from other regions. The people live in harmony and peace. It is all thanks to the hereditary heritage of the kingdom.

Then, the King opened the lid of the chest under his seat. From inside the crate appeared a shiny object of light. Apparently, that thing was emitting light so they all glare.

"The luminous stone turns out to be a diamond that is as big as a banana!" Both children of the king were amazed to see such a diamond.

"This diamond is priceless and no one has it, other than our ancestor".

"Your grandfather gave me a mandate; this diamond should not be sold or given to anyone. This heirloom must be carefully preserved because it is a symbol of the glory of our kingdom."

Lumuh Lenggana and Lumuh Sumpit were still stunned by what was seen. Then the king went on.



"My children, Father is no longer young and can no longer continue all the duties of the kingdom. For that, I want to give the royal throne to my son and daughter. Lumuh Lenggana, because you are the eldest, you are entitled to replace your father as queen in this kingdom, and you my son Lumuh Sumpit, will be the queen's assistant. "

"If it's been Dad's decision, I will carry out all the tasks that will be given to me," said Lumuh Lenggana.

In contrast to the answer Lumuh Lenggana, apparently, Lumuh Sumpit less agree with his father's decision.

## **2. Lumuh Lenggana and Lumuh Sumpit**

Princess Lumuh Lenggana sat daydream in front of the window while enjoying the beauty of the night. She was still unsure of his father's decision. She was also unconvinced that she could perform such an unexpected task."Am I able to fulfill father's wishes?" Princess Lumuh Lenggana was known as a friendly female figure.

Lumuh Sumpit was born not much different from his sister. Lumuh Sumpit grew as a handsome and well-built man. He did not associate very much with the people around the palace.

The days of Sumpit were only filled with plans to go on sale. Lumuh Sumpit was very ambitious sell the goods to other areas. The whole days she worked hard nonstop. She did not think of the kingdom and the family's affair anymore. She was no longer serious about his elderly father's needs.

The life of a trader certainly did not always give a big profit, sometimes she must bear the loss. The loss must have been experienced by Lumuh Sumpit. However, it did not discourage her to keep trying to make a profit.



### **3. Initial Dispute**

That afternoon the atmosphere of the kingdom became hyped, people passing as if there was something happening. Similarly, Princess Lumuh Lenggana, she paced uncertainly.

Apparently, this afternoon the king asked Lumuh Sumpit to meet the king. The health of the king had recently worsened. The king was no longer doing activities. The government was run by Princess Lumuh Lenggana. The king stayed mostly in the solitary room. Meanwhile, Lumuh Sumpit ignored her duties as the assistant of Princess Lumuh Lenggana. In fact, almost every day he was not in the palace. That's what causes the seeds of resentment of Princess Lumuh Lenggana. Until the king was in a critical state, Lumuh Sumpit was not in the palace.

Finally, the king died and had not had time to meet with Lumuh Sumpit. The entire palace mourned the death of a highly respected king.



After the death of the king, Princess Lumuh Lenggana immediately took over the government. Moreover, she had received his father's mandate as the heir. Lumuh Lenggana began to arrange plans to reorganize the government. It should be Lumuh Sumpit who became the assistant in running the government. However, he had not appeared in the palace. Nevertheless, Lumuh Lenggana did not remain silent, she called all the palace guards. They were asked to help with the work plan of Princess Lumuh Lenggana.

"I have plans to move the center of government to a new palace. So, Princess Lumuh Lenggana will live on a raft in the river. "

It's time for Princess Lumuh Lenggana to move to the new palace. All government affairs were carried out in the new palace. She also brought a diamond heritage of his father. The guards were following Princess Lumuh Lenggana and some were living in the old palace.

By the time Lumuh Sumpit came home from trading after so long not returning to the palace, how surprised he had heard that his father had died. In fact, he was disappointed after hearing that the government had been moved to the palace of Princess Lumuh Lenggana.

During the trade, it turned out Lumuh Sumpit, always lose money. Her trading capital was long gone. Finally, he came home with no results.

Lumuh Sumpit began to run out of reason. He began to sell his father's property to continue his business. However, the effort was in vain because of the debt that must be borne more and more. Gradually palace treasures began to decrease. It was heard by Princess Lumuh Lenggana. She became irritated and angry.

Evil intention of Lumuh Sumpit arose to get its business capital. "I still have a way to get capital to continue my business. I will ask Lumuh Lenggana diamond heirloom, "thought Lumuh Sumpit.



#### **4. Grab for Diamond**

The sun was set on the western horizon, twilight had come. Birds flew all the way to find a place to sleep. The atmosphere by the river was very calm. The boat where Princess Lumuh Lenggana lived was occasionally swayed by the river waves. Inside the palace of Princess Lumuh Lenggana seemed quiet like there was no activity. The night almost arrived, Princess Lumuh Lenggana still silent fixated in front of the window.

She watched the river water making the boat sway. Her mind was hovering. "I'm disappointed that my little brother does not remember the duties that my dad has mandated. He's too busy with his business," she told herself.

Suddenly a guard came in and delivered the news. Lumuh Sumpit arrived at the Lumuh Lenggana palace. The guards were ready to welcome him. Unexpected what had been prepared in such a way it did not make Lumuh Sumpit happy. On the contrary, he did not seem to like it. His face looked fierce. He went straight to his sister. With a heavy voice, he conveyed his intention to Lumuh Lenggana.

"Lumuh Lenggana, I think what you're doing is out of bounds. You did not ask my consent to move the government on this boat. I am your little brother," he replied.

"I'll tell you," she replied calmly.

"No needs, now I just ask you, give me the heirloom diamond. I'm the one who has the right to keep the heirloom. "

"Lumuh Sumpit, I keep it in a safe place. Trust me I'll take care of it. "

"Lumuh Lenggana, something you should know, right now I need money, I want that diamond, I want to sell it as a capital of my trade," said Lumuh Sumpit.

When she heard Lumuh Sumpit's answer, Lumuh Lenggana was angry. It would not be possible to give the heirlooms into the hands of others. How could she give that heirloom to be sold. Lumuh Lenggana was angry to hear her brother's answer.

Lumuh Lenggana and the guards made better guarding around the palace. This was to avoid the diamond-stealing plan by Lumuh Sumpit. However, until noon there was no sign of anyone trying to seize the inheritance.

On a full moon night, the atmosphere around the palace seemed deserted. Undetected by anyone, Princess Lumuh Lenggana went out of the palace. She looked around the boat. She planned to hide the heirloom diamond outside the palace. "I will hide this diamond in the most hidden place and not one person I tell," she told herself.

On the night already planned by Lumuh Sumpit, she set out alone to the palace of his brother's boat. On the contrary, the guards at Princess Lumuh Lenggana's palace were increasingly improved.

That night, like the previous nights, Princess Lumuh Lenggana had not slept even though it was late at night. She worried that her little brother would come to steal the heirloom diamond so she should be vigilant.

Lumuh Sumpit was already near the boat Lumuh Lenggana. He began to enter the palace area. Likewise, Lumuh Lenggana already knew her little brother's sign. Immediately Lumuh Lenggana took the heirloom diamond to be brought out of the palace. She tried her best to run away from her little brother.

That night, Lumuh Sumpit effort to get the heirloom diamond failed. Lumuh Lenggana can hide from the pursuit of her little brother.

The next day Lumuh Sumpit found out, where his sister roughly hid the heirloom diamond. Traced the streets around the Sampit River but there was no sign of Lumuh Lenggana hiding in that place.

At that moment, her sister appeared from a distance to her hiding place. Lumuh Lenggana could does not think straight again. "I cannot lose this treasure to my little brother. It's better he did not see this thing. "Without thinking, he threw the diamond into the



river in front of the harbor. After that, she tried to get away from Lumuh Sumpit. She decided to return to the palace.

The next day Princess Lumuh Lenggana got on the boat. She could not walk. Her body was limp and she sat on the chair. Soon Lumuh Sumpit arrived at the palace. He could not hold back his anger. He screamed loudly.

"Lumuh Lenggana, where is the diamond," he cried.

"The diamond is not with me," said Lumuh Lenggana.

"Then where do you keep the diamond? Guards, quickly, cut this boat rope."

When saw the boat drift, Lumuh Sumpit ordered that the mooring of the boat was also released.

Princess Lumuh Lenggana realized that her life was threatened. She could die soon. Princess Lumuh Lenggana stood in the middle of her boat while raising her hand up and praying in front of the God. Voice of Princess Lumuh Lenggana echoed in the air.

"O Almighty God, who created the heavens and the earth, send down curses upon us so that I will not die by my own brother's sword, but let the dead slave leave all our responsibilities as kings because of your will and for your deeds. Accept our request, O God, Amen"

Suddenly the sky became pitch black. It was raining heavily. Water was poured out of the sky. Storms and cyclones come fast. In the midst of the rainstorm came a thunderous voice.

The atmosphere grew steeper. The smoke seemed steaming along with the thunder. Smoke like hot sulfur soared into the sky and caused fog. Finally, the boat and the ship of Princess Lumuh Lenggana broken into pieces and drowned at the bottom of the Mentaya River.

This event is now known by the people along the Mentaya River. The upstream is known as Pulau Lepeh and Pulau Hanaut. The distance between the two islands is about one kilometer, located between the City of Samuda and Sampit City. Lepeh Island is trusted by the community as a former boat of Princess Lumuh Lenggana and Hanaut Island is a former ship of Prince Lumuh Sumpit.

Until now the elders of Samuda and Sampit believe that if people sail past the two islands, seeing the ropes of the areca nut is dangling on the beach of the island, it is a sign of a big profit on the way.





## **The Author**

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